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THE TRUE
CALEDONIAN,

Addressed to the PEOPLE of

SCOTLAND,

Containing an Examination of the Arguments
advanced against the WOOLLEN-MAN-
UFACTURES of this Kingdom, in a
late Book, intituled, *The Interest of SCOT-
LAND considered, &c.*

Together with

A SCHEME for promoting our WOOL-
LEN-MANUFACTURES.

By THOMAS MELVILL Weaver.

Diu multumque desideratum.



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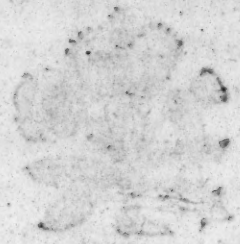
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EDWARD M.

1917



THE TRUE

Caledonian, &c.

Friends, Country-men and Fellow-Subjects.

AS it is certainly a Duty incumbent upon any Member of a Society, to endeavour to promote the Interest of that Society as far as in him lies; and, as numberless Schemes are daily contriv'd, with a View (if we can believe their Authors) to your Advantage, so I hope I may be allowed the Privilege to examine impartially which of them have a Tendency to your Good, and which not. Almost every one of them contradicts another; so that all of them can as well be for your Interest, as both Sides of a Proposition can be true.

ALL these Schematists agree in this notorious Truth, *That we are poor*; and really I think I may (in Imitation of them) take it for granted, seeing I am not addressing myself
to

to such as have made themselves rich upon the Ruins of their Country; such People, tho' Natives of this Kingdom, can only be called *Scotsmen* by Way of Irony, for indeed it is the greatest Sarcasm imaginable upon them.

HEAVEN (my Friends) has blest us with a Prince, who is justly stiled the Father of his People; he has always had a tender Regard for our Liberties, and has still shown himself very willing to encourage any Scheme that tended to promote the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom: 'He has nominated Twenty one Trustees, who were to take these Affairs under their special Cognizance; But what Good these Gentlemen have done, in Comparifon to what they might have done, and how they have applied these Funds with which they were intrusted, are Questions very necessary to be asked, but, I am affraid, not so easily answered.

THESE Trustees (by what I can find) endeavour to promote the Linen-Trade of this Kingdom, which, by their wise Directions, and suitable Encouragements, is vastly more improven than could have been expected in so short a Time; but they have done nothing to Purpose, in encouraging the Woollen, which is a most valuable Branch, and the Support of the Riches and Glory of *England*: How far this Method of proceeding is right,

I hope the following Discourse will evidently show.

MOST of the Weavers of this Kingdom (till within these three or four Years bypast, that some Gentlemen have put their Sons to that Employment) were but of the Meanest of the People; they carried on no Business of their own, but wrought by the Piece for Gentlemen, Farmers Wives and other Commoners; the Payments of both the latter, and sometimes of the former too, consisted partly of Victual and partly of Money, which was frequently badly paid, the Price of the Working depending on the Sale of the Piece: This, of Necessity, always kept the Weaver poor, seeing he could not have his Money to buy Yarn or Woofed, to make a Piece of his own, which is the only way that Money can be made by the weaving Trade: Likewise, the Weavers, at some Times of the Year, wrought Linen, at others Woollen, and all in the same Loom; by which Medley of Employments, they attain'd to no Perfection in the working of either, which was a great Detriment to our Manufactures.

THE only Way, in my Opinion, to cure this Evil, is, That young Men who intend to follow the woollen Business, should go up to *Norwich*, or any other Place where that Branch they intend to follow is brought to the greatest Perfection, and there, either to bind them-

themselves Apprentices, or if they have serv'd their Apprentiships at Home, they may work as Journeymen, under the Direction of a good Master, until such Time as they are complete Masters of their Business.

THE Gentlemen in this Nation, when any great Man puts his Son to a Trade, never fail to put theirs to the same, till they have overstock'd that Business, and then a great many of them must go abroad to seek their Bread; which is just robing the Nation of so many useful Members, witness the late Run they took upon being Joyners; now that Trade is overstock'd, and they are putting their Sons to be Linen-Weavers, by which Means the Woollen comes to be neglected, and for ever will be, till either Men of Stock follow it, or the Trustees in some Measure supply that Defect.

THERE is 14000 L. which is appropriated for encouraging the manufacturing of the coarse Wool of this Kingdom, at present that Money is lent out upon common Interest, for which they have 700 L. *per annum*; this is given to poor Tradesmen that can make Interest with any great Man; they settle those Persons in Towns in the Shires where the Wool is produced, and allow them a Salary of 20 L. *per annum*, besides Utenfils: I believe there may be about Twenty of these Stations, which costs them 400 L. *per annum*. I humbly

bly conceive that this Method will never answer the End ; for, those Persons, as I said before, have no Stock of their own, so that this Salary comes very seasonably to maintain their Families, and, as long as they keep in their Patron's Favour, they don't expect to lose it.

THE Scheme I would propose to the honourable Trustees, for promoting the Woollen-Manufactures, is, That they would lend 10000 L. of the 14000 to Weavers upon Security, Interest free, for Twenty Years; That Ten Years after the Receipt of the Money, they shall begin and yearly pay one Tenth of the Sum they received ; so that in Twenty Years the Trustees will have their whole Money paid back, and thereby be enabled to encourage others upon the same Scheme, if there be any further Occasion ; but I presume there will not, because, those who shall begin now (if they mind their Business as they ought) in Twenty Years time will be very capable to carry on their Business upon their own Stocks ; and, by this Time, Gentlemen who can afford to give their Sons handsome Portions, seeing others make Money by this Trade, will put them to it, by which Means, in a little Time we shall be able to manufacture all our own Wool, and thereby keep that Money among our selves, that now we are obliged to send to *England*.

OF the 14000 L. that is appropriated for encouraging the Woollen-Manufactures, I only propose 10000 L. of it to be lent out without Interest, the other 4000 I would have lent out to any Manufacturer or other Person whom the Trustees shall think proper, at common Interest, which will be a sufficient Salary for Two riding Officers, to go from one Manufacture to another, to inspect their Books, and bring their Reports to the Trustees. These Officers ought likeways to be vested with a Power to seize upon all woollen Goods of any Kind, below their respective Breadths.

AT the Expiration of Ten Years, there will be 1000 L. *per annum* paid into the Trustees, which they may apply according to the aforesaid Scheme, or in what Manner they shall, in their great Wisdom, see fit.

THERE are only two Objections that can reasonably be made against this Scheme, the first is, That supposing the Trustees willing to lend out this Money, to whom shall it be lent? Where is there an Woollen-Weaver in this Kingdom that can give Security for 1000 or even for L. 500? And it is not to be thought they will trust their Money to any poor Tradesman, unless he can give sufficient Security, that it shall not only be return'd, but even applied according to their Contract with him.

T H E R E

THERE is another Objection made by a great many, against this Method of lending Money, which is, That they have not a sufficient Fund to set up a Manufactory at every Burgh, or to lend to every Person; so that the lending it to some will disoblige others, and, of Consequence, make Enemies to the Trustees.

TO the First Objection, I answer, If the Trustees would once go into this Scheme, I am sure, that there are a great many Gentlemen in this Kingdom, who would send up their Children to *England*, and bind them Apprentices to Weavers, in Prospect of this Encouragement: And I do not know, but that some of *English* and *Irish* Weavers, might be induced to come and settle among us. When I was at *Dublin*, I was told by several Weavers, who had no Occasion to leave their own Country for Want, That, if the Trustees for promoting the Woollen-Manufactures of this Kingdom, would give them any Encouragement, they would come over and settle here, where they might have Liberty to export their Goods. The *English* do all that possibly they can, to discourage the Woollen-Manufactures of *Ireland*; They hinder them from exporting Silks, Cloths, or Stuffs of any Kind: They have likewise opened three Ports in *England*, viz. *London*, *Bristol*, and *Liverpool*, at which, all *Irish* Wool and Woof-

teds are enterable, and pay only a small Duty; so that an Woollen Weaver in *London*, can afford to sell his Goods, made of *Irish* Woosted, very near as cheap as a Weaver in the City of *Dublin*. The Reason is, When they buy their Woosteds from the *Irish* Combers, they take considerable Quantities at once, and pay ready Money, and consequently, have them much cheaper than an *Irish* Weaver, who will only buy little at a Time, and require five or six Months Trust: Likewise, the Combers finding more Advantage in dealing with the *English*, than their own Country-men, give them the best of their Woosteds, and so their own Weavers must either want, or put up with the Refuse: They likewise labour under another Difficulty, which, indeed, is the greatest of all, That, after their Goods are made, they may ly by them six, nine, or even twelve Months, before any Body asks after them: And when they do sell a Piece to a Shop-keeper, they must take their Money by Smalls, as he can give it them; For, if they do not, they disoblige him, loose his Custom, and consequently, must seek out another Merchant, or keep their Goods to themselves.

ONE of their Silk-Weavers once complained to me of all these Hardships, and told me, He had a strong Inclination to leave the Country, and if our Trustees would allow

low him 100 *L. per annum*, he would come over, and employ 2000 *L.* in a Manufacture of Silks; if they would give him 150 *L.* he would bring over 3000 *L.* which he said was all his trading Stock.

ALL the Use I would make of this, is, That if the Trustees would only consent to lay out their Money according to this Scheme, there is no Fear, but there would be Plenty of Weavers to demand it, who could give undeniable Security, not only to return it, but likewise, that they would apply it for the Good of the Nation, if the promoting our Woollen Manufactures be a Good. I know there are some who maintain, that it is not the Interest of this Part of the united Kingdom, to endeavour to promote the manufacturing of Wool; But I would fain hope, that these People are not in earnest, only amusing themselves with some Speculations, new and peculiar only to themselves, which none ever maintained before them, and, 'tis likely, none will ever after them.

As to the second Objection against this Scheme, That, as the Trustees have not Money enough to give to every Person, so that the giving that to some, will disoblige others, and consequently, create themselves Enemies in the Nation.

To which I answer, If the Trustees are conscious to themselves, that this Scheme will be ad-

vantagious to the Nation, the groundless Clamours of no Person whatsoever, ought to hinder them from putting it in Execution: The Nation in general, will perceive, That what they do is for their Good; so that they will get no Enemies by this way of Management, except such as would have them perform Impossibilities, and who prefer private before publick Good; and surely, the Favour of such ought not to be courted by any generous Mind.

IF any of the Trustees have a Dependance upon the Court, and, upon that Account, will not go in to any Scheme that may make Enemies to them, these Gentlemen ought to excuse themselves to his Majesty, and not accept of an Office they dare not execute, that others may be chosen in their Room, who will act upon a nobler Principle, and do what will tend to the Good of their Country, without being byassed by any Party whatever: Yet, I cannot see, but that those Trustees, (if there be any such among them) who have a Dependance upon the Court, ought to be as clear for putting this Scheme in Execution as any; because, if it prove advantagious to the Nation, it will make the People Friends to the Court, as they ought to be, as long as the Court acts for their Interest: For I do not think 'tis included in the Charter of a true Patriot, That he should always be against the Court, whether they are right or wrong.

If a Weaver from *England* or *Ireland* was to be here, and see the Method that is at present taken, for the promoting of our Woollen Manufactures, he would be very ready to conclude, that we never intend to set up a Manufacture in the Kingdom. When a Tradesman can make Interest with any great Man to stand his Friend, he gives in a Petition to the Trustees, and, at the same Time, his Patron is speaking to them separately, telling them the Man is honest, and he has heard some say, (as for himself he knows nothing of the Matter) that he is a good Workman ; and he will not fail, to be sure, to tell them what Advantage it would be to that Shire he lives in, that this Man get his Demand : The Trustees thinking that the Fellow will perform what he so fairly promises, grant him 20 *L. per annum*, besides Utenfils. The Affair being settled, my Gentleman repairs to his Station. What does he next ? He intimates to all the Ladies around, That he will comb their Wool at such and such Prices : My Lady considers, if this is as cheap as an old Woman can afford to do it : However, at last she sends it, he combs it, and so he thinks he has perform'd his Task with infinite Advantage to the Nation. Those Tradesmen are sent to the Country, to sort, wash, and comb Wool, and their Expences annually amount to 700 *L. per annum*, and I appeal to the Trustees them-

themselves, if all the Wool they comb and sort in the Year, amounts in Value to half that Sum: Such handsome Beginnings, promise something in the Event, that is extraordinary!

GOOD GOD! what Pity is it that Gentlemen, who spend their Time in serving their Country, should be thus imposed on! As the Trustees are Gentlemen, whose Business has no Relation to Weaving, so 'tis not to be wondered at, if they should commit Mistakes; but I hope they will not be offended at any Person, who takes the Freedom to tell them their Faults; if they are not informed, that such a Method of Proceeding is wrong, how shall they know it? And if they do not know it, how shall they amend it? They, I say, are not to be blamed for their Mistakes in managing an Affair they know nothing of: But, if after having tried one Scheme, and finding it not to answer, they shall still proceed, and in no ways alter it, then, and then only, are they Blame-worthy. They have now, for these several Years bypast, followed that Scheme of giving 20 *L. per annum*, and may, by this Time, see that our Woollen Manufactures are not to be encourag'd that Way, so as to produce any good Effects. I heartily wish, that they may alter their Method in that Particular, that the malicious World may have no Opportunity to say, that it is a voluntary Error.

A late Author very justly observes, That † the Gentlemen who procured a publick Fund, for encouraging the Manufacture of our coarse Wool, seem to have been Strangers to the Business, when they adjected this Condition, to limit the Encouragement to those Counties where the Wool is produced; the Consumption of that Wool can only be made by the Encouragement of its Manufacture in those Places where it now is, and where it has been carried on for many Ages; for in the Wool-Countries, there are not Hands for Manufacture. A Farmer or Store-master, as they are called in those Grounds for Sheep-walk, who pays 200 L. a Year of Rent, has no more People in his Family, besides himself, Wife and Children, than three or four Herds, and as many Maid Servants for milking the Ewes, and doing his other necessary Work. All that can be proposed there, is to clean and wash their Wool, and to send it to the Market sorted; and in this they will save a great Deal of Carriage.

THERE is one Argument the Trustees frequently make Use of, and which I think my self obliged to answer, and that is, This 14000 L. (say they) was given for the Encouragement of manufacturing coarse Wool, and

† Interest of Scotland considered, Page 107.

and therefore we cannot encourage any one that does not manufacture that Wool. Supposing that Money, by Act of Parliament, was appropriat for encouraging the manufacturing of coarse Wool; yet have the Trustees the most ample Power imaginable to dispose of it, to promote the manufacturing of any Wool in this Kingdom; because, generally speaking, our Wool is coarse, when compared with the *English*, so that I cannot see, but that Expression of *coarse Wool*, may include all the Wool of this Kingdom. The Words Coarse and Fine, are relative Terms, and I don't see how their Boundaries can properly be fixed, that Cloth which, at Present, I call fine, will when compared to another Kind much finer, be properly called coarse; and so one Kind of Wool, when compared to another, may be properly called coarse, and yet, when compared to a Kind much coarser, be as properly called fine. But, there is nothing more ridiculous than to say, That no Wool, except the coarse shall be manufactured by publick Encouragement; just as if the Manufacturing of fine Wool, was not as great an Advantage to the Nation. If we can make Broad-Cloths, Camlets, Kilemankos, Stuffs, &c. of our best Wool, do we not save Money to the Nation? And when we manufacture our coarse Wool, what do we more? I could wish the Trustees in such Cases, would not keep so strict to the

Letter of the Law; for no Law, except the all-perfect one, can answer, so as that it ought not to be varied in an Alteration of Circumstances: 'Tis an old Saying and a true one, That *summum jus est summa injuria*. There is a late Author, viz. *The Interest of Scotland considered, &c.* who tells us, That it is absolutely impossible for us to succeed in the Woolen Trade, at least in Broad-Cloth, Druggets, fine K^{ings}, and the Woolen Goods of Norwich. This Author's Hypothesis hold true, all that I have been saying, will be perfectly useless; for, if it is not our Interest to manufacture our Wool, the Trustees no Doubt ought to discourage it, and apply the 14000 L. to encourage other Manufactures that will be of greater Advantage to the Nation. Since the Case is so, I think my self obliged to examine our Author's Reasoning upon this Subject.

Woolen Goods, (says he) † are the Staple Commodity of England, in which they have the natural Advantage of great Quantities of very good Wool of their own. But this bears no Proportion to the Skill of their Work-men, and to their Diligence in Labour, to the great Stocks of particular Clothiers, Piece-buyers, and other Dealers in every Branch of the Woolen Trade, which enables them to stand

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† Interest of Scotland, &c. P. 77.

the Shock of a bad Market, or any Stop or Damps on their Trade, (which now and then happens from Causes unavoidable) without giving up, or stoping their Business. These are the Fruits of long Experience, and an unwearied Application in Business, which brought the Trade to Perfection, and rendered it at last gainful to every Individual, as well as to the Nation in general, now for many Ages. — || The English have been long Masters of the Woollen-Trade, their Clothiers, Piece-buyers are Men of Stocks, able to carry it on, to keep their Goods upon Hand, until a Market offers, to sell them at reasonable Rates, and upon long Time. England is sufficiently stocked; nay, one may say, over-stock'd with the best of Work-men in every Branch of the Woollen Trade; and no Country can succeed, so as to be great Gainers by any Manufacture, until it is sufficiently stocked with good Manufacturers, that their Wages may be brought low enough, to enable them to undersel their Neighbours in that Commodity, at a forreign Market: Whereas, we have no Stocks equal to so great an Undertaking, we must also be at the Expence to bring from England, Work-men for several Branches, and to pay them higher Wages than they get at Home; and we cannot expect to get their best Work-men. These, and many

many other Difficulties, not easily conquered, render it absolutely impossible for us to succeed in the Woollen Trade; at least, in Broad-Cloth, Druggets, fine Kerseys, and the Woollen Goods of Norwich.

ALL that these Arguments prove, is, That there are Difficulties in the Beginning of every Manufacture, and that those who have been longest employ'd in any Business understand it best, thus far I allow to be just; but, because we don't understand a Business by Intuition, or, which is the same Thing, without applying our selves to learn it, that this, I say, should be a sufficient Reason why we should never attempt to learn it, is, I must confess, a Way of reasoning altogether new to me.

THIS ingenious Considerer of our Interest, has, with great Care and true Eloquence, summ'd up the Difficulties which render it absolutely impossible for us to succeed in the Woollen Trade; all which I shall examine separately, that my Reader may see whether they are real, or Phantoms that disappear upon Examination.

* *AS for the Manufacture of Broad-Cloth (says he) that consists of so many Parts, that we cannot carry it on without evident Loss. First, We have no such Thing as an Wool-stapler in the Country, which lays the Clothier under*

* Ibid. P. 108, 109.

a Necessity to buy his Wool in the Fleece ; and unless he work up all the Sorts himself (which no Clothier can do without great Loss) he must lose by those Sorts he does not use.

THAT we have no such Thing as an Wool-stapler, in our Author's Sense of the Word, is very true, neither is it any Loss to us, because the Wool that is us'd for making Broad-Cloths, is unfit for combing, by reason of its Shortness ; and therefore, those Merchants who buy up Wool in large Quantities, do allow any Clothier to pick out all their short Wool, and do sell it even at prime Cost, in order to get quit of it, because otherwise it would ly upon their Hands, being useless for those Sorts of Goods that require comb'd Wool : And for our fine Broad-Cloths, we buy *Spanish* and *English* Wool ready stapled ; so that this Objection of our Authors is of no Weight when applied to them. If this Gentleman understood as much of this Business as he pretends, he would know that of all the short Wool that our Clothiers buy from the Merchants, there is not much more Refuse than what serves to make Edgings for the Cloth. He allows that we understand the washing, cleaning and drying of Wool pretty well, and no thanks to us, since it has cost the Trustees above 4000 L. in propagating this Art throughout the Nation. *But that we should neither dye Wool so well, nor so cheap,*

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and as the English, seems very wonderful to me, since he tells us, * That at Newmills near Haddington, as good Supperfines were there made, as ever were made in England. Were not these Cloths as well dy'd as the *English*? What is the Reason why we cannot dye as well now? Several of these Men are yet alive, and have been employ'd in this Nation, ever since the breaking up of that Factory; and how those Men should lose an Art in which they were once so perfect, especially since they have been practising it ever since, is more than our Author, or any one else, can well account for. If the *English* dye cheaper than we do, it must either be because they have their Dye-stuffs cheaper, have better Workmen, or live cheaper. That they have their Dye-stuffs cheaper cannot be alledg'd, seeing we have as free Liberty to buy our Dye-stuffs abroad as they have; and I am sure the Freight is as easy. 'Tis true, the Dyers at *London* can buy that *Cochineal*, which is brought home in the *South-sea* Company's Ships, as cheap as we can do, and save so much as we pay for Freight; but sure we can afford it as cheap as they can do at *Norwich*, and I never heard any Dyer there complain that the *Londoners* had any Advantage over them worth speaking of in that Particular.

* Ibid. P. 112.

particular. As to the second Reason, *That the English have better Workmen*, I have already shown the Contrary. I need not take up Time in proving we live cheaper than the *English*, seeing he himself owns † it. He tells us * *We have but few Scriblers who understand the close mixing of Wool on the Cards for Medleys*. I am very glad to find he allows that there is some who understand it, and as many, I suppose, as serves all the Clothiers in the Kingdom; surely the Trade is not so difficult, but that others may learn it, to serve more Manufactures when there shall be Occasion.

HIS next Objection is, § *That our Women are all bred to spin Linen Yarn, and are not so fit to spin Woollen, especially carded Wool for Cloth, which no one can do to Purpose, who is not constantly employed at it*. That all our Women are bred to spin Linen Yarn and upon that Account are unfit to spin Woollen, is false. || *In the West Countrey, I own they spin very little Wool, but in the South and North Countries, they would spin Wool all the Year round; but, by Reason of the Grease that is in it, it cannot be spun in cold Weather, unless in a warm Place, or by a Fire; rather than bestow this Cost, they spin Flax from after Harvest*

† Ibid. P. 119. * P. 109. § P. 109. || Letter to the Author of the Interest of Scotland considered, P. 5.

the Harvest till warm Weather begins to return in the Spring, and then fall to Wool again. Thus it seems rather from Necessity than Choice that they spin Flax. In East Lothian, especially about Haddingtoun, the Linen Yarn there spun does not amount in Quantity to above one twentieth Part of the Woollen, and I challenge our Author to produce any English Woofsted better spun than the Woofsted of that Country. Nor is it indeed their Interest to have the Linen Trade introduc'd among them, seeing that a poor Woman, by spinning of Woollen, will make 3 *sh.* or even 3 *sh.* 6 *d.* per Week, whereas, by spinning of Linnen Yarn, she will not make above 1 *sh.* 6 *d.* or even 2 *sh.* at most.

OUR Author tells us, † *That we understand the picking of Cloth, and the thickning it at the Mill pretty well.* I am very glad to find he allows we have attain'd to this at last, for I have been told by Clothiers in this Kingdom, that they found more Difficulty in getting their Cloth well mill'd, than in any other Part of the Manufacture.

HIS next Objection is, * *That we are not so adroit at the tasselling it on the Dubbing-Boards.* All the Answer I give to this, is, That it is not Fact. But the next Difficulty he throws in our Way is insuperable, viz. *That*

† Interest of Scotland considered, P. 109. * Ibid. P. 109

That || we have no Tassels of our own Growth fit for this Work, but are oblig'd to bring them from England in large Quantities to ly by us, as we have occasion to use them. Suppose a Clothier here should send to England for 5 L. worth of Tassels, these will be sufficient to tassel above 1000 L. worth of Cloth; and what Clothier is there, who Consults his own Interest, that will be at the Pains to cultivate this noxious Vegetable, especially when he can have it for such a Trifle. There is no Difference betwixt the Field and Garden Tassels, only the one is cultivate and the other not. It would be an easy Thing for any Farmer to sow Tassels in his Garden, providing, when they come to be nigh ripe, he attend them closs, for, if he cut them too soon or too late, they are thereby rendered useless. If our Author had been as good a Countryman as he pretends to be, he would have told how to get over this Difficulty of his own contriving, and not endeavour'd to deter his Countrymen by such trifling Reasons, from prosecuting such an useful Trade.

OUR Author has ingeniously wrapt up three Difficulties in the next Sentence; the First is, † *That we have no Shear-men of our own, who understand their Business to Perfection.* Secondly, *Neither have we any*
Press-

Press-men. His third and last Difficulty is, *That we must bring our Press-papers from England.*

As to the First, We have Shear-men who have wrought in *England*, and 'tis not to be presumed, that the *English* would employ them, if what this Gentleman says be true, namely, *That they do not understand their Business.* The same may be said of the Press-men. As for his third Difficulty, it is near of Kin to that of the Taffels: We can buy our Papers as cheap in *London*, as the *English* Pressers can do, and their Freight is but inconsiderable.

From what has been said, it will easily appear to any one, how trifling this Author's Objections against our Woollen-Manufactures are: He has recited all the Difficulties that ly in our Way, and has augmented every the minutest Circumstance, without telling us of any Advantage we have over the *English*. Is not Living cheaper here than in *England*? And, upon that Account, cannot our Workmen work cheaper than the *English*? And, is not the Consequence of this, That we can afford to sell our Goods cheaper? Altho' I should write a Book as large as *Cambden's Britannia*, or *Pool's Synopsis*, yet would it be perfectly needless, if I could not appeal to Matters of Fact. The Truth plainly is, That no Merchant who deals in *English* Broad-
D Cloths,

Cloths, can afford to sell Goods of the same Quality and Goodness, so cheap as they can be bought from Messrs. *Gardner* and *Ross*: So that our Author is prodigiously mistaken, when he says, * *That we can buy Woollen Goods 10 or 15 per Cent. cheaper in England than we can make them at Home.* Neither is it fair to bring in the Account of the Manufactory of *Newmills*, for a Proof of what he says: That Manufactory was carried on by Gentlemen who knew nothing of the Affair themselves, and were miserably trick'd by their Servants. I have been credibly informed by some who were concerned in that Manufactory, That one of their Servants lived at the Rate of 500 *L. per annum*, tho' his Salary did not exceed 200 *L.* No Wonder then, that their Goods were much dearer than the *English*, seeing their Overseers considered their Interest so well.

NEITHER is our Author's Account of the Silk Manufactory set up at that Time, any better; He tells us, || *That those who had the Monopoly of Silks, could answer but a small Part of our Demands, and they themselves, and others by them connived at, with whom they shared the Profits, brought in Silk Goods from England and Holland, and sold them as their own Manufacture, upon which they*

* Ibid. P. 111. || Ibid. P. 113.

they were Losers. This is a horrible Asper-
 sion, and unworthy of a Gentleman! Those
 Merchants here, who dealt in *English* Silks
 themselves, endeavoured, by all Means, to
 dissuade Bailie Lind from setting up a Ma-
 nufactory of Silks; and when they could not
 prevail that Way, they endeavour'd to lessen
 his Character, by such like sinister Aspersions
 as those recited by our Author; and there
 were some Ladies at that Time so full of this
 Notion, that they would not believe but
 that his Silks came from *England*, till he, to
 convince them, shewed them the Pieces in the
 Loom. Is it in the least probable, that he
 would bring a *French-man* from *London*, and
 pay him Sixty Pound *per annum*, and a Vel-
 vet Weaver from *Genoa*, only for a Sham?
 And how can it be imagined, that he would
 keep Twenty Journey-men imployed in a
 Manufacture upon which he was a Loser?
 I am assured by his Relict, and she can get
 several Ladies yet alive to attest it, That
 she has sold Goods of the same Pattern, Qua-
 lity and Goodness, for 'Ten Shillings *per* Yard,
 with those which at *London* cost Twelve:
 And certainly, the Silk Manufacture had ne-
 ver been given up, had it not been for that
 foolish Humour of our Ladies, that they
 would wear nothing that was made at Home;
 so that, after the Union, when the *English*
 Silks came among us, our own (tho' as good)

were despised; none would wear them, and, of Consequence, the Trade dropt.

As for the Woollen Goods of *Norwich*, they are yet more easily made in this Kingdom than the Broad-Cloth; we have Abundance of Wool that will serve for them; and, as for Spinning, we understand that as well as any People in *Europe*, witness our fine Plaids, they are as well spun, dyed, woven and pressed, as any Goods the *English* can produce. I confess we are not so expert in weaving Camlets, Stuffs, &c. as the Weavers at *Norwich* are, neither have we Looms fit for that Purpose; but these are Difficulties easily conquer'd. If the Trustees would go in to the Scheme I propos'd, we should, in seven Years Time, have Abundance of Weavers among us, who learn'd their Business in *Norwich*. And surely, the Author above-mentioned will not deny, that we are, in every Respect, as docile as the *English*. There is no Wright in this Kingdom, who can make a common Weaver's Loom, but who can, with proper Directions, make one of the same Kind they use at *Norwich*. The only Difference between their and our common Looms, is, That they are square, and their Posts much stronger; the Reason why their Looms are so strong, is, Because their Batterings come to with a Spring, which is a prodigious Stress upon the Loom. I have wrought Camlets in

Nor-

Norwich with one Stroke, as thick as they can do here in their common Looms with three.

SINCE I am speaking of the *Norwich* Goods, I think it would not be amiss to obviate one of our Author's Objections, which is equally levelled against the manufacturing of them, as well as the Broad-Cloth, and that is, * *That we have no Stocks equal to such an Undertaking.* Methinks, before he had made this Objection, he should have ascertained the Stock necessary for the setting up of a Manufacture. If, by having no Stocks, ~~for~~ he means we are not so rich as the *English*, I readily grant it, and believes we never will be, for Reasons needless to relate. If, I say, this is his Meaning, I answer, Neither are the *Irish*, yet they have brought their Woollen Manufactures to a very great Perfection, and could under-sell the *English* by 10 per Cent. at least; but the opening of three Ports in *England*, has cast a greater Damp upon their Trade, than all the Guard-Ships of *Britain* could do.

† *THE English* (says he) are Men of Stocks, able to carry the Woollen Trade on, to keep their Goods upon Hand, until a Market offers, to sell them at reasonable Rates, and upon long Time. What our Author means by

* Ibid. P. 110, 111. † Ibid. P. 110.

by this ill chosen Expression of *Long Time*, I know not : Our Clothiers at Home, give 6, 9, or even 12 Months Credit, and I never heard of any *English* Clothier that gave 2 or 3 Years. 'Tis not to be supposed that any Man will sell his Goods upon long Time (to use our Author's Expression) except he knows well for what, and those who buy them pay dear for their Credit.

AFTER our Author has (as he thinks) argued the Woollen Trade quite out of Doors, and shown us, that it is more our Interest to encourage, by our Consumption, the Woollen-Manufacture of *England*, than to make those Goods our selves, he tells us, † *That the Want of the Woollen Trade is no Loss to us, since we have a staple Manufacture of our own, at least, we may have the Linen, in which the English deal not.* How he can, with any Propriety of Speech, call the Linen our staple Manufacture, * when he would have the Flax, which is the Ground of that Manufacture, imported from the *Baltick, Holland and Flanders*, is more than I can conceive.

THIS Gentleman tells us, ‖ *That the English are too wise to encourage any Manufacture in the weaving Way, that might interfere with their great Staple the Woollen;*

† Ibid. P. 111. * Ibid. P. 148. ‖ Ibid. P. 111.

and we should learn of them, to discourage every Trade that may interfere with, or hinder the Progress of our only Staple.

I would only ask our Author, if, in the City of *London*, their Silk Trade does not (according to him) interfere with their great Staple? Are there not Hundreds of Looms at *Spittlesfields* constantly employ'd in weaving Silks? And, in *Yorkshire*, where vast Quantities of Woollen-Cloths are made, are there not more Hands employ'd in the Iron-Work than in that Manufacture? Is there any Nation in *Europe* that have followed their only Staple? Have not the *Dutch*, who seem to consider their own Interest better than this Gentleman has done ours, cherished the Broad-Cloth Manufacture, without ever minding whether it interfered with their great Staple, the Linen, or not? Have not the *Germans* imported Wool from other Countries, and, by Reason of their Cheapness of Living, under-sold the *English* at forreign Markets? And, if the War that they are now involved in does not continue for some Time, it may be in their Power to do us great Harm. Did the *Irish*, when the Linen Trade was introduced into that Kingdom, give over the Woollen? Or, have they given it over yet, notwithstanding all the Discouragements they lay under in prosecuting it? What other Reason can be assign'd for this, except, that none of those

those who have considered *Ireland's* Interest, did ever deal in *English* Broad-Cloths?

As it seems plain that no Nation in *Europe* has kept to their only Staple, so we will find they have a very good Reason for it, if we only consider, that the Tempers and Inclinations of Mankind are as different as their Features; and we may as well think to make them all of the same Religion, or to have the same Notions of Government, as make them all follow the same Trade. What is it that makes the *Jesuits* so considerable among the *Roman* Clergy? Only that they consider the different Inclinations and Abilities of their Novices, and apply them to that Business they seem to take most Delight in. And what is the Reason that we have so many bad Tradesmen among us? Is it not because they are acting contrary to their Natures, in following a Business God never intended they should follow? And, if we would go in to our Author's Scheme, should we not see many Bouchers at Linen weaving, who, had they been employed in some other Branch of Manufacture, had made very good Workmen?

But, how inconsistent our Author is with himself, and how partial he is in Favours of the *English*, will easily appear from this one Consideration; does he not endeavour † to put

† Ibid. P. 136.

rest, put the *English* upon a Method for promoting their Silk Manufacture, by laying a high Duty upon forreign made Silk Goods? And is not this, according to him, encouraging a Manufacture in the weaving Way, that will interfere with their great Staple the Woollen? It is not my present Business, to examine how far this would be for the Interest of *England*, to lay a high Duty upon all forreign Silks, especially those we get in Return for our Woollen Cloth; for it appears evident at first Sight, that it is more our Interest to import such Goods, than to make them ourselves, seeing, if we did not take Silks from those Countries in Exchange for our Cloth, they could not be able to trade with us, and consequently our Shipping and Manufactures would be decreased; and how far that is our Interest, I leave it to our Author to judge. I say, tho' this Scheme he proposes, is not for the Interest of the *English*, yet 'tis evident he designs it should, when he says, * *That it would prove a mighty Encouragement to our own (he means the English) Silk Trade.*

SINCE 'tis not Fact, † *That the English are too wise to encourage any Manufacture in the weaving Way, that might interfere with their great Staple the Woollen*, I cannot
 E see

* Ibid. P. 136. † Ibid. P. 111.

see how it should ensue (if we follow the Example of our wise Neighbours) that we should discourage every Trade except our Linen.

M A N Y are the evil Consequences that attend the not manufacturing our own Wool, I shall only mention one, *viz.* Our Farmers must sell their Wool to some Body, and at reasonable Prices ; so that we must either send it up to *England*, or to *France*, *Sweden*, &c. or manufacture it our selves. Our Author allows, † *That the English don't buy our Wool, except when they have a brisk Trade* : As this is not always, so I want to know what we must do with it in the mean Time ; Must we let it ly uselefs by us ? No sure. What must we do then ? Is it the Interest of *Britain* to send Wool to other Nations to be manufactured, to the Detriment of its own Trade ? I suppose, none will assert this, who knows any Thing of the Matter.

T H I S is plainly the Case at Present : I have seen large Quantities of our *Scotch* Wool at *Stockholm*, and I don't doubt but that several Cargo's of Wool are clandestinely exported still, notwithstanding all the penal Laws made against it ; and, until we get Manufactures of our own, I can see no Way to prevent it ; for they get great Prices A-
broad,

† Ibid. P. 103.

broad, which incite such as want to make up their Fortunes at once, to venture; and 'tis not to be imagined, but that they will get People enough to assist them, seeing it tends to raise the Price of Wool; and the Farmers, and Gentlemen of small Estates, will never be for discovering any Scheme that affords the Former Money to pay off his Landlord's Rent, and enables the Later to maintain his Family.

WHEN I reflect upon the Whole of our Author's Reasoning upon this Subject, I can't think, but what he says of the *American* Planters, may very well be applied to us, † *Cloathing they must have (says he) and if they are, thro' Poverty and Want of Business, reduced to Necessity to set up (Woollen) Manufactures of their own, no penal Laws will be sufficient to restrain them from going on; but this may be easily prevented, if we find them Business enough in another Way.* 'Tis just after this Manner that he would amuse us with the mighty Advantages we would reap from the Linen, tho', at the same Time, we were neglecting our Woollen Manufactures.

THE Linen is certainly a valuable Branch of Trade, and the Trustees have done very much good to the Nation, by bringing it to the Length that it now is: It, together with

† Ibid. P. 137.

the Woollen, are indeed our Staple, and both ought to be encouraged by all true Lovers of their Country : But, I can by no Means agree with our Author, when he says, † *That the Linen is the only Branch of Business that can employ all our Hands profitably, and a Business that can never be over-stock'd.*

SINCE this Gentleman would have us follow the Linen Trade, and let the Woollen drop, because it is the Staple of our Neighbours the *English*, for whose Interest he seems to have a deep Concern, I cannot conceive (if he be consistent with himself) *why* § *he would have the Linen Trade set on Foot in Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire.* Will not all the Arguments he made use of against the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom hold equally good when apply'd to the Linen Trade of *England*? I know there are several People in this Nation who wish well to their Country, who are afraid, that if we bring our Woollen Manufactures to such a Pitch as to be able to serve our selves, the *English* may thereby be induc'd to lay our Linen Trade under a Disadvantage, either by not buying it, or laying a Duty upon it.

I shall answer this Objection, rather for the Satisfaction of such as make it, than because I think there is any Weight in it. The Author

thor above-mentioned observes, † *That England is now serv'd with fine Linen from Holland, and Countries adjacent to it, and with Cambricks, and other Sorts of Linen from Holland and France; and the Balance of Trade with both those Countries, is against England (which, by the By, is not Fact, in Relation to our Trade with Holland.) England, and the British Plantations, are served with great Quantities of middling and low pric'd Linen of divers Sorts, from Silesia, and other Parts in the upper and lower Circle of Saxony. Formerly those Countries took large Quantities of Woollen Goods from England, and then that Trade was profitable to England: But now they have Manufactures of Woollen, in several Places of their own, which serve a great Part of their Consumpt of low pric'd Cloths, and lessens their Demands of Woollen Goods from England, whereby the Balance of Trade with them, is now against England. The Balance of Trade betwixt England and Scotland, is on the English Side: So that, tho' our Woollen Trade were brought to the greatest Height imaginable, and tho' we had no Occasion to take any of their Woollen Goods, yet it would be more their Interest, to take Linen from us, than from any other Country; because the most Part of our Money centers in London. The more*

more Money we have, the higher will our Land-rents be, and consequently our Nobility and Gentry will be enabled to spend more liberally among them. And that the *English* should lay a Duty on our Linen, seems to be contrary to the Fourth and Sixth Articles of the Union, which cannot be altered without unhinging our whole Constitution

Now I think I have fully answered our Author's Objections against our Woollen Manufactures, and having been longer upon this Subject than at first I intended, I shall now draw towards a Conclusion.

LET us therefore, my Countrymen, fall briskly to work, and encourage our Woollen and Linen Manufactures. Thank God, we are not so poor yet, but that we are able for such an Undertaking; and I hope ye will find, in the Event, that it will not be pushing an unprofitable Trade up Hill, as the Author just now mention'd would make us believe. I remember, when I was in *Dublin*, I saw a Parcel of Broad-Cloths fold there under the Denomination of *English*, and really they were so good in their Kind, that they could not be distinguish'd by the nicest Judges, and yet the Gentleman to whom they belong'd confessed to me that they were made in *Scotland*. Such Beginnings, tho' small, promise something in the Event.

WHAT pity is it that such a Nation as this, famous in all the Countries of *Europe*, for warlike Actions; I say, What pity is it that we should not excel as much in Trade, as in martial Affairs? Trade is the only Thing that can make a Nation truly Great in itself, and amiable in the Eyes of its Neighbours: Let us therefore apply our selves closely to it. Being descended from an illustrious Train of Ancestors will avail us little (as the World now goes) unless we can keep up their Rank; tho' I should be the Grandson of a *Wallace* or *Hambden*, I shall only be respected among my Neighbours according to the specifick Gravity of my Purse.

SELF-INTEREST seems now to influence the Actions of Mankind more than in former Ages. Blazing Stars are, at Present, more often seen, than Patriots who serve their Country only with a View to its Good; they may pretend to what they please, but 'tis too often with a View to make them be trusted, and when they have got what they were wanting, they become as odious as their Predecessors in Office; But, thank Heaven! this Principle is not without many Exceptions; for, if it was not, farewell glorious Liberty! happy *British* Constitution! we would find your kindly Effects no more!

WHO pretended to stand up more for the Interest of his Country, than a certain great Man;

Man; and yet, who is in the Nation at Present more 'levell'd at? I must confess I am out of my Sphere, but, since I have mention'd him, I wish the old Fable which I am now going to narrate, be not too applicable. *There was an old Horse, with a gall'd Back, feeding upon a Meadow, a Swarm of hungry Flies alighted upon it; the poor Horse did not know what to do, he kick'd and jump'd, but all to no Purpose, the Flies still kept their Places, but when they were full of his Flesh, they became more easy; at length an honest Traveller coming by, offerr'd the Horse his Assistance, he thank'd him kindly, but excus'd himself by saying, The Flies are now full and easy, but if you should drive them away, other hungry ones will come in their Place, and I shall be tortured afresh.* But to return,

It certainly argues a Consciousness of Defect in Point of Merit, to rely upon the great Characters our Fore-fathers worthily stood possessor of: Their Characters ought only to be Patterns to us, and to excite in our Souls a generous Emulation to do as much Good to our Country as ever they did. 'Tis personal Merit alone that can make us great; Let us therefore throw away all such clannish Notions, and, as good Subjects, and good Countrymen, amicably join together to promote the Interest of our native Country.

E I N I S.



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